



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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March 22, 2010

**TO:** Chief School Administrators  
Charter School Lead Persons

**FROM:** Willa Spicer, Deputy Commissioner

**SUBJECT:** Highly Qualified Teacher HOUSE Matrix—Special Education Teachers

On April 21, 2008, New Jersey's school districts were notified that veteran special education teachers would be able to use the High Objective Uniform Standard of Evaluation (HOUSE) matrix to demonstrate their highly qualified teacher status for an additional two years, beginning in April, 2008 and ending June 30, 2010.

This memo serves as a reminder that the deadline for expiration of the HOUSE is imminent. I recommend that central office administration provide immediate notification to staff of the expiration on June 30, 2010 of the HOUSE matrix to afford those who plan to use the HOUSE ample time to complete the process. You may access the HOUSE documents at [www.nj.gov/education/profdev/nclb](http://www.nj.gov/education/profdev/nclb).

Please note that the expiration of the HOUSE matrix does not in any way change the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) flexibility rule already in effect for novice special education teachers in the first year of teaching special education. The IDEA flexibility allows novice special education teachers who are highly qualified in language arts literacy, mathematics or science when hired as a special education teacher to have two years from the date of hire to become highly qualified in additional subjects using the HOUSE.

To ensure that you have updated, timely information and are maintaining accurate records, you are encouraged to review the Highly Qualified Teacher website located at [www.nj.gov/education/profdev/nclb](http://www.nj.gov/education/profdev/nclb) for a complete description of the highly qualified requirements and documentation forms.

If you have any questions regarding the Highly Qualified Teacher requirements, please contact Carol Albritton, teacher quality coordinator, at (609) 777-4482 or by e-mailing [HQTeachers@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:HQTeachers@doe.state.nj.us).

WS/CP/EAS/CA/L:\Highly Qualified Teachers\Memo To Csas Re HOUSE Matrix-Special Ed. Teachers.Doc

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